Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083698 ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-02 MMO-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /064 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ,FOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - APRIL 13, 1977

- 1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT BRIEFING APRIL
- 2. Q. HAVE YOU WORKED OUT HOW AND WHEN THE NEW AID SHIPMENT TO ZAIRE IS GOING TO GO?
- A. I TALKED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE THIS MORNING. THAT MATTER IS STILL BEING WORKED OUT. THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY DECISION ON THE MODE OF SHIPMENT. WE ARE IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROCESS OF MARSHALLING THE MATERIAL FOR ONWARD TRANSPORT AND I AGAIN REPEAT I WOULD SUGGEST THOSE QUESTIONS YOU CAN GET A FASTER ANSWER AND NOT A RELAYED ANSWER IF YOU DO GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

3. Q. IN AN INTERVIEW PRESIDENT MOBUTU SAID THAT HE WAS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO RESPOND TO THAT?

A. I WAS TRYING TO DO THAT THE OTHER DAY BY SAYING THAT '.

HAVE SEEN HIS COMMENTS. I DON'T HAVE ANY RESPONSE TOTHEM.

I WOULD ADD PARENTHETICALLY THAT THEY WERE MADE PRIOR TO OUR ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY.

4. Q. THERE IS ANOTHER INTERVIEW IN THE DAILY TELEGRAPH UNDER A DATELINE OF YESTERDAY, SO I SUPPOSE TECHNICALLY THAT ALSO IS PRIOR TO YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT, IN WHICH HE IN SUBSTANCE REPEATS THE SAME COMPLAINT, AND HE SPECIFICALLY IS REACTING AGAINST SOME STATEMENTS OF ANDREW YOUNG THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER RESPONSE?

A. I GUESS I JUST HAVE TO REPEAT WHAT I JUST SAID.

I HAVE SEEN IT.

5. Q. IN THAT INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY TELEGRAPH PRESI-DENT MOBUTU SAID HE RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE FROM SECRETARY VANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT LET HIM DOWN.

CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT MR. VANCE HAS SENT SOME SORT OF ASSURANCE, AND CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF IT? UNCLASSIFIED

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A. I AM NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT. AT THIS POINT I CAN'T FIND A LETTER WHICH SUGGESTS THAT PHRASEOLOGY. IF I DO, I WILL TELL YOU.

6. Q. COULD IT HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED IN SOME OTHER FORM -- THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR?

A.LET ME JUST SAY MY RESPONSE IS THE SAME. I AM NOT DUCKING IT. WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE IT AND I AM NOT SAYING THAT IT DOES OR DOESN'T EXIST.

7. Q. IS THAT A REFLECTION OF AMERICAN POLICY -- THAT WE WON'T LET MOBUTU DOWN?

A. I THINK THAT OUR RESPONSE YESTERDAY IS AN INDICATION OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT ZAIRE'S INTEGRITY AS A NATION, AND OUR CONCERN ABOUT A SITUATION IN WHICH THAT NATION FINDS ITSELF INVADED BY FORCES OPERATING FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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Subject: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - APRIL 13, 1977

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